



Go Green for Spring Break!

	Monday Read	Tuesday Develop	Wednesday Apply	Thursday Write	Friday Collaborate	Saturday Act!
Grades PK3 – PK4	Read <i>The Litter Monster</i> . *	Discuss, “What can we do with things we don’t want or need anymore?”	Separate and sort your recycling by paper/ cardboard, cans, plastic, and glass from the recycle bin.	Draw a picture of “ <i>The Litter Monster</i> .”* You can even use recycled materials to make it more fun!	Re-use items from your recycle bin to make musical instruments. *	Invite some friends to play your new instrument like a marching band!
Grades K-2	Read <i>Butterfly Café</i> or <i>Stone Soup</i> . *	Sort vegetables into categories based on different traits like taste, color, and size. Together, create a data table *	Go to a grocery store, or look through a sales flier, and have him/her identify all of the foods that can be grown in a garden.	Create a flyer or picture book to teach others about planting flowers or vegetables. Bonus: Ask a local restaurant or your grocery store if they will post your writing!	Work with a friend or sibling to find places in your neighborhood or home where you could plant a garden or build a green house. Consider if there’s enough space and light?	Visit the Smithsonian Gardens or take a virtual tour of the Botanical Gardens.* Make connections to the plants they see to the ones they learned about.
Grades 3-5	Read <i>How to Build a Green House</i> .*	Create a supply list that includes items needed to build a greenhouse and plant seeds. Add the prices to estimate the total cost.	Find the exact prices for the materials on your supply list by looking in a sales flyer, on the internet, or at a store. Compare the exact costs to your original estimate.			
Middle Grades	Learn about <i>Sustainable DC</i> *, the District’s plan to make DC “the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the United States.” Read pages 6-13 of the plan and choose your favorite goal area.	Develop an idea for a phone app that helps people to live more “green” focused on a specific goal from <i>Sustainable DC</i> .	Estimate the amount of water you use each day. How frequently do you wash your hands, bathe, flush the toilet, or do laundry? How could you reduce the amount of water you use? Bonus! Create a chart or graph of your estimate to share with the whole family.	Write Mayor Gray a letter explaining how you intend to contribute to a specific <i>Sustainable DC</i> goal.	Share your plans via social media! Tweet @dcpublicschools or talk to a friend to share your ideas and start a conversation.	Enjoy the Cherry Blossom Festival or visit Union Station’s interactive and eco-friendly exhibit to celebrate Earth Month!*
High School	All high school students must earn service hours in order to graduate. Earn service learning hours to maximize your Spring Break!*					
	Read Jeffrey Master’s article <i>Al Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth</i> or <i>The Reality of Global Climate Change is Upon Us</i> by Sharon Begley *	Based on <i>Al Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth</i> or other <i>The Reality of Global Climate Change is Upon Us</i> , think about the following questions: What are some of the issues facing Earth today? How do you know what the big problems are? What could be done to solve these problems?	Imagine two scenarios for Earth’s citizens in 2150 – 1) where people have polluted and cut down trees OR 2) where people made big moves to help bring down pollution. What do these two worlds look like? How do people behave? Use art, music or poetry to express your thoughts.	Write a blog post or article for your school newspaper describing the challenges facing your community’s natural environment. Make a recommendation for how to solve these problems.	Identify a non-profit in your community working to solve Earth’s problems. Reach out to them and find ways to support your shared mission! With a friend, brainstorm a message about earth conservation. How could you share this message on social media? Tweet @dcpublicschools	Enjoy the Cherry Blossom Festival or visit Union Station’s interactive and eco-friendly exhibit to celebrate Earth Month!*

* Check out the other side for details!

Grades PK3-PK4

The Litter Monster

*I'm a careless fellow and this is what I do.
I make a mess and won't clean up-
I leave that up to you.*

*I throw my garbage in the street.
I will not keep my room neat.
I drop my wrappers on the floor.
I pitch my tissues out the door.*

*But I'm so very sad you see,
Because no one will play with me.
They call me "Litter Monster"- how can that be?
Oh, please, my friend, won't you help me?
(Courtesy of Teaching Strategies, Inc.)*

Make Musical Instruments from Recycled Materials

- **Drums:** Bang on recycled cans! Assemble a grouping of different sizes of empty tin cans, for example, tuna cans, vegetable cans or soup cans. Also, large water or milk jugs are awesome because they are so deep, and different brands will have different tones.
- **Shakers:** Put some beans, coins or other small objects in a jar or soda bottle, put the lid on and shake away!
- **Guitar:** Making a guitar at home out of recycled materials is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

Here are the 6 home items you'll need:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1. Empty paper towel roll | 3. Rubber bands | 5. Straw |
| 2. Empty shoebox | 4. Scissors | 6. Tape |

Assembly:

(Pre-step: If you want to make your instrument a certain color, now is the time to paint your tissue box and towel roll. Once the paint is dry, you're ready to move on.)

1) You will need to cut slits into the end of your paper roll, about 1" long, and bend outwards (this is how you will attach your handle).

2) Wrap rubber bands around your tissue box, making sure that they lie over top of the opening in the box.

3) Cut the straw to fit and slide it under your rubber bands. Secure the handle by sliding it underneath the rubber bands on the top of your box, if needed use tape as well.

(From: bunchfamily.ca/diy-piece-band/)

Grades K-2/ 3-5

Online Access to Books

- **Butterfly Café** is available online here: bit.ly/butterflycafe
- **Stone Soup** is available online here: bit.ly/Stonesoup
- **How to Build a Greenhouse** is available online here: bit.ly/buildagreenhouse

Sample Data Table

Plant	Color
Basil	Green
Corn	Yellow
Tomato	Red

Smithsonian Gardens

Smithsonian Gardens are located around museums throughout the National Mall. They are open year-round, seven days a week, with something to see in every season! To find out more information and see a map visit gardens.si.edu

Botanical Gardens:

For a virtual tour visit bit.ly/virtualgardentour

Grades 6-8

Sustainable DC

You can read the *Sustainable DC* plan online at sustainabledc.org.

Water Consumption Chart

- **Shower:** A typical showerhead flows at 2.5 gallons per minute or less. The average shower in the United States consumes 17 gallons and lasts just over 8 minutes
- **Faucet:** The typical kitchen faucet flows at 2.2 gallons per minute.
- **Toilet:** Toilets made from the early 1980s to 1992 typically used 3.5 gallons per flush or more. Toilets made prior to 1980 typically used 5.0 to 7.0 or high gallons per flush the oldest toilets can use more than 8 gallons per flush.
- **Washing Machine:** An older washer will use approximately 40 to 45 gallons of water per load. A family of four using a standard clothes washer will generate more than 300 loads per year, consuming 12,000 gallons of water annually. New, High-Efficiency Washers (HEW) (front loading or top loading machines are available) can use 14 to 25 gallons (53 L to 94.6 L) of water per load.
- To learn more, visit: home-water-works.org/calculator

Earth Month at Union Station

- When: April 1 through April 30
- Where: Union Station, 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE
- What: Earth Month at Union Station will feature dozens of exhibitors, a film festival, a farmers' market, alternative energy demonstrations, a green fashion show and a science fair with local schools. There will also be programmed activities, entertainment, discussion panels, contests, games, giveaways and much more throughout the month, with a full day of special events and entertainment on Earth Day, Monday, April 22. For a full schedule of events visit: earthday.org/eventschedule

Grades 9-12

Articles About Climate Change

- **Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth** by Jeffery Master is available online here bit.ly/jefferymaster
- **The Reality of Global Climate Change is Upon Us** by Sharon Begley is available online here bit.ly/newsweekclimatechange

Service Learning Hours

- **Global Youth Service Day on The National Mall:** Participants will have a chance to take part in a service project, participate in family-friendly activities, connect with nonprofits in the area, and hear from special guest speakers. An anticipated 1,000 people will participate, contributing an estimated 3,000 hours of service to the community. To sign-up, email: Outreach@YSA.org or to learn more, visit: gysd.org.
 - When: April 12, 2014 at 9:30am - 2:30pm
 - Where: National Mall: Lincoln Memorial and Henry Bacon Ball Field, Henry Bacon Dr NW
- **Websites to find volunteer opportunities**
 - **NeighborGood** is a program out of ServeDC the Mayor's Office of Volunteerism. NeighborGood is a free, online District of Columbia-specific volunteer opportunity database and search engine. Learn more here: bit.ly/serveDC
 - **Volunteer Match** is a program that allows volunteers to connect with a cause that needs them. They have over 90,000+ nonprofits around the world that need volunteers. Learn more here: volunteermatch.org
 - **Volunteer.gov** is America's natural and cultural resources volunteer portal. Learn more here: volunteer.gov

Earth Month at Union Station:

Details above!